

NORFOLK LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF 94TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NORFOLK LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION HELD AT WENSUM VALLEY GOLF CLUB ON MONDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2018

The President, Heather Keeble, took the chair and opened the meeting with a welcome to all present. The President asked the members to stand for a one-minute silence in memory of family, friends and colleagues whom you may have lost during the past year.

Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for the support given to the County Association.

Present: Heather Keeble, President, in the chair, Sam Martin, County Captain, Helen Ayres, Honorary Treasurer, Margo Horsburgh, Honorary Secretary and 137 members representing 26 affiliated clubs.

Before Item 1, Heather asked all the members of the top table to stand so she could introduce them to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – Apologies were received from 39 members from 14 clubs.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk Ladies County Golf Association held on 20th November 2017 had been circulated.

Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Helen Marsters (King's Lynn), seconded by Margaret Fisher (Eaton), agreement by a show of hands. The Minutes were approved and signed by the President.

3. Matters arising other than those on the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Honorary Treasurers Report –Helen Ayres

President Heather, County Captain Sam, Members of the Executive, Ladies

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|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | I'm first again to have my say
I'd no idea what until yesterday
Should I do another verse?
With less than a day to rehearse | 2 | Reporting on figures we find so boring
And as, last year, I didn't hear snoring
I thought I'd try another rhyme
Which I promise will take only a little time |
| 3 | Now – I'm afraid I'm no Helen Mac
She doesn't need notes to keep her on track
Without these you'd be here all day
And that dreaded stopwatch is still ticking away | 4 | So, no time now to take a nap
The abridged accounts should be on your lap
Detailed accounts – we have some here
If you'd like a copy, they're at the rear |
| 5 | Firstly, thanks to our Inspector – Jan
Who has checked my books since the year began
Her statement appears in the accounts at the back
She keeps a close eye and me on track | 6 | Turning now to Income which was £22,000 -
Over £2,600 more than last year |
| 7 | We collected £2,000 more in Affiliation Fees
Because some clubs paid last year's fees late
They were received after the 1 st November
Well beyond their due date | 8 | Norfolk Premier Golf had joined us
Based at Blofield – you probably know
With just a few lady members
We hope their number will grow |
| 9 | Our competitions contributed more income
Thanks to the Organisers for everything they've done
Keeping costs down and encouraging ladies to enter
Showing that County events are fun | 10 | This year we lose our Championship sponsor
Who has supported us for the last six years
If We don't manage to find A N Other
Your Treasurer will end up in tears |
| 11 | Our County Captain has been searching
For someone to fill their shoes
I'm hoping she's been successful
But I've yet to hear any news | 12 | We may also lose Fosters Solicitors
Who have sponsored our raffle prizes
I'm sure we'd all be sorry to see bottles of wine
Replaced with socks of varying sizes |
| 13 | Expenditure at almost £24,000 is
£7,600 more than last year | 14 | Each year I do a budget
And I thought I'd got it right
Until I got the bill for County Week
Gave me quite a fright |

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 15 | Our County team was successful and Progressed to Finals' Week again At the Royal North Devon Golf Club In gale-force winds and rain | 16 | England Golf provided a welcome grant Of £2,900 But still the cost of the 1 st team Rose to £12,500 |
| 17 | Spending increased on all out teams to over £15,000 Which, together with £3,000 to the Juniors Resulted in Expenditure exceeding Income By almost £2,000 | 18 | But all our accounts are healthy We have money in the bank The only thing left for me to do is Our Executive to thank – for their support Shelagh Rump for looking after the Junior accounts and you for listening |

At this point Marilyn Barter, King's Lynn, questioned the amount of money that had been spent on the County Teams. Heather replied by saying that success comes at a price and Norfolk had done well playing in the Women's County Finals in the last two out of three years.

Helen proposed the adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st October 2018. Heather then asked that the accounts be approved.

Proposed: Helen Ayres (County Treasurer), seconded Barbara Fielding (Royal Cromer), agreement by show of hands

Heather thanked Helen for giving her report in such an entertaining fashion and for her hard work in keeping the finances in such good order.

5. To receive Reports of The Executive Committee and County Officials:

a) The County Captain – Sam Martin

County President Heather, Ladies of the County Executive, and Ladies

It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters in the end and during my second year as your County Captain, there have been many roads to travel and I have felt a little like Odysseus at times.

Our County training was punctuated by Pilates and Play at Royal Norwich Golf Club from January to March with a squad that embraced County 1, 2 and juniors to motivate morale and hone team performance for the coming season. Fiona Spencer stretched and strengthened the girls. County 1 consolidated their match fitness against the Norfolk Senior Men at Great Yarmouth and Caister and the Hunstanton Men. This year I added to the calendar by introducing a contest incorporating our County 1 and 2 Ladies' versus County 1 and 2 Men, an historic occasion uniting the Association and Union where all teams competed against each other to further spur our preparation. Coaching sessions with Ollie Barnes and additional Get Togethers concluded readiness and we looked forward to the coming year armed and dangerous.

The NLCGA County AmAm was held on Friday 4th May at Royal Norwich and it was my pleasure to orchestrate and host arrangements. Twenty-two teams entered consisting of players representing clubs from Fakenham, Wensum Valley, Eaton, Dereham, Ryston Park, Richmond Park, Barnham Broom, Costessey, Dunston Hall, Sprowston Marriott, Royal Norwich and Great Yarmouth and Caister. The ambience, affability and sisterhood were tremendous, my County Ambassadors impeccable advocates for Norfolk and Barnham Broom won. It was my intention to be generous to our members, who invest time and money in their County Club and cultivating that community and inclusive atmosphere is paramount for us to truly benefit one another for the future.

King's Lynn proved a testing venue for the Norfolk Ladies' County Championship from May 11th to the 13th and as always was a triumph. Schoolgirl International Amelia Williamson defended her County title against Tiffany Mills and added to a cachet of cups that included the Hampshire Rose and Norfolk Schools Girls Championship. Congratulations also to Tracey Williamson, overall winner of the East Region Seniors Championship at Ely Golf Club along with Jo Ashmore and Karen Young who together won the team shield. The old Norfolk County Team.

As I report on our England Golf East Region Inter-County Match Week, I am delighted to deliver the Doris Abraham Trophy. The team I selected Amelia Williamson (Royal Cromer), Amy Taylor (Bawburgh), Chloe Rowswell (Eaton), Megan Mann (Barnham Broom), Chloe Gibbs, Jasmine Campbell, Jo Herd (Royal Norwich), Imogen Leeder (Dereham) and Tiffany Mills (Ryston Park) was driven by an expectation and confidence in their ability to achieve in concert with a youth and experience that fortified our capability, dynamic and personality. We arrived at Woodbridge for our practice on an extremely warm Sunday afternoon to jostle for position against Cambs and Hunts, Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Suffolk. Good companions one and all. Norfolk began their campaign against Bedfordshire and won 5½ to 3½ and what a terrific start. On Tuesday we played Hertfordshire and halved. Wednesday, we met Essex and won. I reflected on our position midway the tournament and was satisfied we were in position. Amy ventured to the Henry Cooper and as I completed the team sheet for Suffolk on Thursday morning, I remembered Hunstanton as they had proved my undoing. A loss, however this was not a deterrent to our game plan this time and as I prepared for Friday the Gods had declared a tantalising final battle. Cambs and Hunts, one of the original Four Counties was our foe as they were competing for their first East Regional title so I knew we had to be on our mettle. As I shook the hand of their Captain after the match that secured our win my heart almost ripped out of my chest. Our team had committed, endeavoured and so deservedly been rewarded, as they played their very best. I pledged we would wear the Norfolk Lion with pride and I am so proud of us all as we are the sum of all parts. County President Heather, Vice-captain Susan, County 2 Captain Vanessa, CJO Carol, Executive, caddies Jo, Lesley, Nickie, Trish, Shelly, Ann, parents, Grandparents, Hugo and the supporters who found the time to visit and encourage. Wonderful Woodbridge it surely was.

Victory extended the Norfolk reach to the England Golf County Finals at Royal North Devon Golf Club from the 17th to 21st of September. An indomitable team spirit wrapped in a cloak of iron will equipped us with a desire and purpose to do our best. We have perspired, aspired and most definitely been inspired and buoyed by an inner belief to go further although selection presented a challenge as Amelia and Amy were unavailable due to college commitments in America. I was optimistic however, as every remaining player would rise to the occasion as it is their opportunity to perform in the predominant arena of Ladies' amateur county team golf. Legends are created, memories woven and future champions annealed at this level and it is truly historic for Norfolk to join the esteemed company of Yorkshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Surrey and Staffordshire for the second time. With the addition of Abigail O'Riordan [Swaffham] and Jo Ashmore [Barnham Broom] my squad was complete. The Finals has a sense of Narnia or Neverland as you may only part of the story if you absolutely believe.

We began our offensive against Staffordshire and all nine players took part as we narrowly lost 5/4. A meeting was requested by England Golf to consider the inclement weather possibilities for Tuesday and a County Captain collective agreement to field one foursomes and four singles the following morning, as the England Golf meteorologist who was stationed in America was forecasting high winds and rain. Buckinghamshire won 3½ to 1½. We met again to discuss format and after robust debate we proposed two foursomes and four singles for Wednesday and Norfolk lost 2½ to 3½ against Surrey. I must admit at this stage I was exasperated as I was of the opinion we could play more matches but was reminded by England Golf that a result was the objective. On Thursday we encountered Gloucestershire and lost 3/2 as one foursomes and four singles were played. Our final Captain collective to decide format for Friday resulted in a match of three sessions as impatience forced further games. Ironically, it was a day of 50 mph gusts, wind speeds of 40 to 45 mph, driving rain and Norfolk performed outstandingly winning 4/2 claiming fifth position overall. Personally, I will always feel cheated by this event as our ambition to deliver beginning at Woodbridge and concluding at Royal North Devon was in the end vulnerable to the vicissitudes of the elements. The opportunity I wished to offer my players was on this occasion unfulfilled as I am convinced we could have achieved more but I cannot praise their efforts enough as they fought with every ounce of resolve whenever and wherever I played them. I include my county support team, caddies and all of you who visited to buoy our spirits yet again. It was a week of great achievement and Norfolk most definitely returns a reinforced squad. I am confident it will linger long enough in our hearts to galvanize greater aspiration, motivate perspiration and inspire us for next time, if we simply believe how good we can be. And I must include the sheep and horses who added to the eccentricity of the course.

This is my final report and my journey's end has come. I thank all of you for your encouragement throughout my personal odyssey as your County Captain. I have endeavoured to serve Norfolk with a determination to embolden all of you to play golf as part of your County Club and it has been a privilege and honour to underwrite this aim. My campaign to visit every Ladies' section to discuss the merits of the NLCGA and entreat dialogue to develop together has almost concluded and I have listened to the conversation. Thank you for your warm hospitality and welcome. We are a County of shared ambitions and as golf enters a time of change regarding handicaps juxtaposed with the restrictions of time, we must adhere to the desire to work together to maintain and improve the golfing environment from the grass roots and beyond. Our Association provides us all with competitive possibilities and our appetite must remain constant and be resolute against the increasingly popular social day out. There is a space for both.

I commend Carol on her tremendous management of our junior girls especially winning Junior County Match Week, Heather for taking care of us, Vanessa for leading County 2, Helen Mac for ensuring Norfolk is aware of the England Golf machinations, Helen Ayres for her exceedingly gracious generosity, Margo for managing the admin, Sue Hill for Chairing our meetings, Liz and Lesley for their efforts with the Diamond Knock Out and website, Susan Heeles for her vice-captaincy and Tracey for inviting me to take the role. The face of County Captain is somewhat Doctor Whoesque in the fleetingness of appearance but the sentiment never falters. Norfolk first and I wish Sue and our County Executive all the very best of luck. Finally, Arnold Palmer says it best for me 'Golf is a world in itself. It's an experience that's really worth living - it's been a wonderful life I must say and I say it with all humility and appreciation for the people who made it so special'. And that is you and what a terrific adventure it has been.

Heather thanked Sammy for a very full report detailing her team's year – what a wonderfully successful two years you have had, culminating in National Finals, what a wonderful achievement. She said that Sammy had led the County with outstanding energy, passion, conviction and belief – a word that will always be engraved in her heart – working tirelessly for the County – we're all so proud of you.

b) Second Team Captain – Vanessa Mann

Apologies for not being able to attend the AGM today, I am caddying for Megan (my daughter) who is playing in the final of the Junior European Open in Spain.

The County II Team have had a fantastic year!

Our season began with regular winter training at Royal Norwich GC. A great team spirit developed during these get togethers and I knew as Captain we would have a successful year ahead.

Just as I predicted, the team were unstoppable, winning against Essex at Eaton GC in July, followed by another win against Bedfordshire at Bedfordshire GC at the beginning of August and then finally winning once more in mid-August against Cambs & Hunts at Bourne GC.

Winning against all 3 Counties meant we were in a great position for Finals day on 31st August, which was held at The Bedfordshire GC. A team consisting of experience and youth took on the task for Norfolk. Unfortunately, even though we won the points overall for the day, we lost by just 1 point to Bedfordshire, it was just so close!

I would just like to say a massive thank you to the 2nd team players who were:

Jo Ashmore, Sammy Martin, Sian Fenn-Green, Jess Rutherford, Sue Henderson, Ann Fletcher, Beth Buckingham, Claire Anderson, Hope and Eve Neild, Maisie Farrelly, Eppie Zandvoort and Sharon Black.

It was a pleasure and privilege to be Captain of such a good group of dedicated players and I am grateful for their support throughout the year.

I would also like to thank Sammy Martin for the help and support she has given me this year. She has been a fantastic County Captain and wish her all the best in her retirement!!

Moving on to 2019, we are going to win for Norfolk next year! We are hosting the Finals Day in August at Barnham Broom GC and hope that we will get lots of local supporters to come along and cheer us on!

Heather thanked Vanessa in her absence for her report and to Sammy for delivering same. She thanked Vanessa for leading the 2nd Team with energy, enthusiasm and passion saying that they had had a super season, with great results and gave her congratulations.

County Seniors' Captain – Nicky Wylie

We have welcomed new Ladies to our fold who have added a cutting edge to the team and made us a force to be reckoned with!

We had 4 matches:

Lost to Herts 5-2

Beat Essex 6-1

Beat Cambs & Hunts 5-2

Beat Suffolk 5½-1½

Sixteen different players have turned out to play for the team from a growing number of people to choose from, all with generally lower handicaps. All looking good.

I hope you all enjoyed your matches on the courses we have played and look forward to calling on you all next year.

If you know of Ladies you are 50 or above or will hit the magic age next year and have a handicap of 10 or under please forward their contact details to me.

Thanks once again and hope to see you all soon.

Heather thanked Nicky for her report in her absence and for leading the Seniors' Team to another good year.

c) County Junior Organiser – Carol Delf

County President Heather, County Captain Sam, Ladies

As you are aware, my report always has a title that reflects the year. This year I have entitled my report

'Best In The East!'

2018 – a year of regional superiority for Junior County First Team, individual successes in competitions inside and outside the County and encouraging growth of the next generation of Juniors!

Our County Teams

The undoubted highlight of the year was winning JCMD at Letchworth – to quote the EDP "*Norfolk Girls recorded five emphatic victories in the most prestigious team event of the year.*" The Norfolk run of victories started with a 5½-½ win over Suffolk followed by day two a 6-0 win over Cambs & Hunts and a 4½-1½ win over Hertfordshire. 5-1 wins over Bedfordshire and Essex completed the clean sweep on day three – a memorable outcome in my last year as CJO. Equally remarkable was the fact that we only lost 2 of 30 games played! The team was superbly captained by Chloe Rowswell - she was an inspiration to the team of Abigail O'Riordan, Imogen Leeder, Chloe Gibbs, Hope Neild, Eve Neild, Maisie Farrelly and rookie Poppy Beales.

The Team was definitely the "Best in the East"!

The County 2nd Team for up and coming players were very eager to play and won their away match against Bedfordshire – but most unfortunately for them two other county matches were cancelled by the opposition.

Special congratulations go to the Junior Girls who were selected and played for the Ladies' County I & County II Teams. As you have heard from County Captain Sam, the Junior Girls made a significant contribution to their successes. There is a natural and inevitable progression from Juniors to Ladies. This year we are losing six elite players – this does, however, present opportunities and challenges for our next generation of players who are ready, willing and able! Departing the Junior ranks are: Amelia Williamson, Immy Leeder, Chloe Rowswell, Megan Mann, Amy Taylor and Abigail O'Riordan.

Looking at Our Individuals Successes

A considerable number of Junior Girls have once again competed and enjoyed success in County, Schools, Regional and National events. This we always encourage as experience of and exposure to top level competition always improves performance.

Some notable performances for 2018:

The Junior Girls' Champion Abigail O'Riordan Gross 73 one under par at Sheringham.

The Birdie Champion McHarg Trophy for up and coming players Ruby Patterson 51 pts. A record stableford score.

Norfolk Ladies' Champion. Amelia Williamson. 6 girls qualified match play.

Norfolk Schools' Champion Amelia Williamson.

SE Schools' Champion Amelia Williamson.

East Region Girls' Champion –Chloe Gibbs, setting a course record of 69 gross at Royal Norwich. Polly Norman won the 1st Nett H/C prize

The Norfolk Team of Chloe Gibbs, Megan Mann & Abigail O'Riordan won the team prize –a truly excellent day for Norfolk "The Best in the East"

English Girls' Open Championships at East Devon six girls played an excellent performance from Amelia Williamson 6th place in a very strong field

English U14 /U16 English Girls' Open Championship at Lyme Regis Eve Neild and Chloe Gibbs played well and just missed the cut.

Abraham Trophy is for the most improved golfer: Regional Winner Chloe Tarbard –aged 10 - one of our new generation of players.

Henry Cooper Junior Masters – Amy Taylor 2nd.

Our Norfolk Order of Merit for our County Competitions was awarded to Poppy Beales, Runner Up Chloe Tarbard.

The Brancaster Shield for County, Regional & National Events this year is awarded to Amelia Williamson with Runner Up Chloe Gibbs.

The encouraging growth of our next generation of juniors can be illustrated by the results of the Handicap Challenge which continues to be a very effective indicator of performance improvement. The Handicap Challenge records the girls' handicaps during the playing season. Six girls have gained a handicap to enter the bronze division and a further six have entered the silver division – 50% more than last year. Double figure handicap reductions still continue to be the norm to contend for the annual awards. The Winner of the Handicap Challenge is Ruby Patterson 36 to 19 – a 17 shot reduction. Equally noteworthy and promising, Division II Eve Neild's 11 handicap reduced to 5 joining sister Hope, Captain 2019 in Division I and Division III Nellie Ong age 11 reduced from 27 to 15 – a 12 shot reduction. In Division 5 Lilia Copeman, who joined our academy 6 years ago at the age of 4, reduced her handicap from 41 to 27 – a 14 shot reduction. Remarkable as it may seem one junior novice player's first 4 cards took her straight to a handicap of 19!

Ladies – it looks good for the future!

Once again, our County Competitions continue to be well supported and provide a first step for those learning to play for girls with and without handicap. The emphasis is on fun, enjoyment and encouragement. Our talent programme and junior activities provide opportunity for all ranges of ability.

May I remind you again to please encourage any girls at your club to come along to any of our events. It is a great opportunity to play with other girls, meet new friends and join our pathway for development – all of our current elite squad have followed this route. Our next event is the Santa Special on Sunday December 2nd at Royal Norwich – all welcome for Santa fun and golf.

Now to look at the wider picture –

Although there has always been a route from County to Regional and National squads, this has become more obvious and better waymarked over the last few years. Girls and their parents have a clear overview of the various stages to the ultimate honour of representing your country. However, there is no doubt that success at higher levels by current and recent players has provided role models and encouragement for the younger players. In the past year:

Chloe Gibbs and Eve Neild have just been selected for the U16 Regional Coaching Squad.

Abigail O'Riordan has completed her final year in the U18 Regional Coaching Squad.

Amelia Williamson has had another outstanding year selected for the National Squad and selected to play in the Home Internationals in Ireland, England won and full credit to Amelia winning all her matches. In addition, she retained the Gold Rose Bowl presented by Justin Rose.

Today opportunities are not just limited to this country – the USA has beckoned both Amelia Williamson to a golf scholarship in Florida and Amy Taylor. Amy Taylor returned briefly from her golf scholarship in Texas to reach the quarter finals in the LGU Girls' Championship and the semi-finals of the English Women's Matchplay Championship. Amy has also qualified for the Sunday Telegraph Boys' & Girls' Championship final due to be played shortly in Spain.

Development Programme

With the inevitable loss of the older Junior Girls that I have already mentioned, it is vital we have a continuous process of development. I am firmly of the belief that the conveyor belt of talent development not only has to be continually supplied with young raw talent but also has to be kept moving by investing in good quality training and coaching. New for this year were the "Girl Golf Rocks Tour" and specialist coaching by Paul Ashwell of the younger Elite Squad.

Needless to say, all coaching costs money. England Golf remains in cut back mode and we have had to use more of our own funds to keep the talent programme going. We do appreciate the generous support from clubs, donations and raffles and the significant contributions this year from the Norfolk Lady Vets and the Ladies of Royal West Norfolk. I must also acknowledge again the impressive voluntary assistance with the coaching, development programme and our competitions.

Conclusion

I must thank sincerely all the members of the Junior Committee both past and present – I could not have managed without their support and enthusiasm. I must also thank Lady President Heather for her enthusiastic support and encouragement during her presidency. I cannot finish without a special mention of County Captain Sam and Past County Captain Tracey for their continued support of the Junior Girls.

As you are all aware, this is my last report.

This last year has been a delightful finale to my seven years as CJO – capped by the JCMD victory – the 'Best in the East'. It has been a privilege and pleasure to take the helm with so much talent available throughout my term.

Presentation to Pat Simpson retiring from the Junior Committee.

A special presentation was made to Pat Simpson in appreciation of the many years of service she had given to the Junior Committee and Norfolk Girls Junior Golf.

Heather thanked Carol for her report stating that it had been a wonderful year for her and the juniors – they just get better and better – culminating in the wonderful win at the East Region County Match Days. She stated that her achievements for the last seven years were too numerous to mention having been the face of Junior Golf in Norfolk and the East Region and are highly regarded by both. She stated that Carol had a passion and vision for golf in Norfolk and had developed so many talented juniors over the years progressing through the teams. Without her we wouldn't be where we are today – one of the best counties in the country. She then presented Carol with a memento of our love and gratitude.

d) Handicapping & Scratch Score Assessment – Sue Allen & Nickie Clarke

This year we had quite a lot of changes to the CONGU system, the key ones being the increase in the upper handicap limit to 54 and the relaxation of the number of Supplementary Scores allowed. Both of which are working towards the new WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM.

England Golf has been running a series of Workshops to help golf club managers, handicap secretaries and county officials learn about the new WHS (WHS).

I won't go into detail now; that will come in the early part of next year when I, with Nickie's help, will hold another meeting for Handicap Secretaries.

There are however, a couple of points which I would like to impress upon members now, in advance of the new system coming along in 2020.

Most of you will now know the basics.....the new handicaps will be worked out on an averaging system: the best eight out of the last twenty scores.

My first point is:

When the new system begins; Handicaps will be worked out using your current handicap record. Scores will be reprocessed using the WHS principles.

The more current scores there are, the more accurate handicaps will be.

Please try to put in as many qualifying cards as possible in 2019. If you don't play in many competitions – for whatever reason – then try to do some Supplementary Scores.

The second point is this:

Please be kind to your handicap committee. England Golf is encouraging them to be strict with the Annual Reviews and in making adjustments. Of course, they will be following the mandatory procedure in the CONGU Handbook. BUT, because of the 2018 changes, this will mean that some handicaps, instead of being capped at 36, will be going over this milestone.

I know people were never keen on having their handicaps altered with a review but it is inevitable that some will have to break that barrier in order to accurately reflect their playing ability. Indeed, there may be quite a few unpopular movements to handicaps: both upwards and downwards but better now than getting a huge adjustment in 2020.

Just to reiterate those two points: **(1) Play lots of qualifying golf. (2) Embrace your revised handicap – DO NOT shoot the messenger.**

Thankfully, there are no handicap changes for 2019, which will give us all a chance to concentrate on the New Rules!! The new rules do have an effect on handicapping, and advice to help committees is available on the CONGU website: it is entitled "GUIDE FOR COMMITTEES", and explains the impact of the 2019 *Rules of Golf* changes.

Scratch Score Assessor's Report:

The joint course rating team has assessed seven courses this year and is on target to complete the remaining seven courses in 2019. It has been the national target to have all courses rated by this time in order to produce a Slope value for clubs in readiness for the World Handicap implementation in 2020.

Nickie would like to thank the team members, Nickie Wylie, Pam Brooke and Julie Carpenter, for giving of their time, travelling the miles, and rating in sometimes inclement weather to ensure clubs have an up to-date Ladies Scratch Score.

Heather thanked Sue for a full and comprehensive report and for helping and supporting Clubs throughout the year. She also thanked Nickie for her report and for the work she and her team had undertaken to ensure that SSSs throughout the County remain on target.

e) England Golf County Voting Member & East Region Committee Representative –Helen McAllister

Your Voting Member's report for the last 12 months is under two headings. Firstly, EG (our Governing body) and its activity, secondly, taking a quick look at what the delegates of Norfolk Golf Clubs have been up to on your behalf.

Firstly, a year's worth of meetings has resulted in the Affiliation fee, members' pay being increased to £9 from £8.25 an increase of 75p.

At the last General meeting, the Chairman of EG reminded Voting Members of its proposal of an affiliation fee of £9.50. He explained that in the event of this being defeated, a further proposal would be put to the meeting: an affiliation fee of £9, an increase of 75p, as proposed by Lancashire Union and seconded by Northumberland Union.

The Voting Members felt that England Golf should provide more information to show that its operations and expenses were effective, efficient and value for money.

There followed a vote by a show of hands. The proposal to increase the affiliation fee to £9.50 was rejected 107-67. The proposal of a fee at £9.00 was then put to the meeting and approved 135-36 on a show of hands.

This Increase is in place only for one year!

Moving on to the activity of EG. Participation data indicated that over the first two quarters of the year we have seen growth in the number of people playing golf.

Data shows that the number of independent golfers is in the region of 1.6 million golfers playing twice per month. This potential market will be important for EG to explore going forward. EG Looks to finance this, over the coming years and to that end EG requirements have been managed by the Board to ensure both that the Sport England funding is received and that EG achieves excellent governance. Excellent governance is a major goal for EG and they hope to encourage the creation of merged county bodies responsible for all golf activities. EG has a target of 50% of counties to be merged by 2021.

On the Financial front the EG board felt that an increase in the affiliation fee would help to finance that activity. (eg. you or your club may be familiar with the work undertaken by the EG County Support officer and the services they provide to clubs).

The Voting Members required over the next year financial confirmation that the increase had indeed had the impact to secure more people playing golf. An interesting year ahead.

What does affiliation mean to the club member? As you may or may not be aware, by affiliating to EG your club agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of affiliation. For you, the member, you can find the terms of your affiliation on the EG website.

The brevity of the second part of my report bears no resemblance as to its importance. It concerns the Delegates' Meetings. The meetings have proved to be lively and the Association is really encouraged by the engagement and participation of the club delegates. This important role is critical to the Association and our communication process to clubs. Over the coming year even more so with the changes to rules and World Wide Handicap system

Just as a taster of our activities, our delegates' workshops have raised such diverse comments and issues such as

Geographic locations and the time taken to reach matches across our county. Should we look at splitting the region?

Competition dates and venues (try not to have on the same day every year, due to club days)

Ways to make the County Competitions more fun, more inclusive (I know that is mantra for our County Captain)

Communication is key going forward and I would ask for your continued support for your delegate and use them to raise and recommend ideas to maximise the golfing experience for our members.

Finally, after four years of being the Association Voting Member this is my final report. Thank you so much to the delegates for wholeheartedly participating at the meetings, laughing at my amateurish jokes and providing the Association with useful and relevant information. Thank you to the clubs who have selected those delegates to represent them. It has been an honour and a pleasure being your voting member.

Thank you

Heather thanked Helen for her report and for keeping us informed on this year's workings of EG and the Delegates' Meetings, she felt that communication and involvement had been truly enhanced between Clubs and the Executive.

At this point Heather paid tribute to Helen for being an excellent EG Voting Member and East Region Representative. She had seen first hand at Woodhall Spa the esteem in which other Voting Members held her. She had kept us all informed of the work of EG, not easy as they seem to be very good at 'smoking mirrors' and represented our views. The face of the Delegates' Meeting had changed as you are passionate about being inclusive, have encouraged communication between the Executive and Ladies' Sections resulting in two new competitions. We shall remember your enthusiasm, fun, humour and passion for ladies' golf in Norfolk. She presented Helen with a gift as a memento of her term in office.

6. To elect the County Captain, Sue Heeles. Proposed by the Executive Committee and seconded by Sammy Martin

Sammy introduced Sue to the meeting stating that many of those present at the meeting would know Sue as she had been involved with the County for a number of years being County 2nd Team Captain in 2004-05 and she felt that the County would be in a safe pair of hands, could think of nobody better to succeed her and that she had great pleasure in presenting Sue with the County Captain's badge.

The members gave Unanimous approval for the appointment of Sue Heeles as County Captain.

Sue then paid tribute to Sammy stating that she felt immensely proud to be standing her today taking over the role of County Captain. 2018 had been an amazing and successful year and she had thoroughly enjoyed working with Sammy as her Vice-Captain. Supporting the team at County Match Week in Woodbridge, travelling to Royal North Devon for the County Finals and the Junior Match Days at Letchworth being some of the highlights. She was under no illusion that Sammy would be a hard act to follow. Sammy had given everything over the last two years as Captain, and many years prior as Vice-Captain including Chair of the Executive. She hoped she could follow in her footsteps and bring similar success to Norfolk. She was also looking forward to meeting as many ladies as possible at the various county events during the year. She felt that Sammy's enthusiasm had been infectious and her efforts in spreading the word about the work of the Association to all lady golfers in Norfolk had helped to make the county more inclusive and she hoped this would continue going forward. It gives me great pleasure to present you with your Past Captain's badge and commemorative plate.

7. To Elect the County Junior Organiser – Sherrell Chuter (Eaton) – Proposed by the Executive Committee and Seconded by Carol Delf

Carol Delf said it gave her great pleasure to second the nomination of Sherrell Chuter to the position of County Junior Organiser who, unfortunately, was not able to be present today. As a former PE Teacher she was sure that Sherrell was suitably qualified to take on the role and wished her every success.

The members gave Unanimous approval for the appointment of Sherrell Chuter as County Junior Organiser.

8. To Confirm the England Golf Voting Member and East Region Representative – Alex Mournian (Royal Cromer)

The meeting confirmed the appointment of Alex Mournian of Royal Cromer as the England Golf Voting Member and East Region Representative.

Alex introduced herself stating that she was not entirely sure what I have let myself in for at this moment in time but was very much looking forward to the challenge and spending time with many ladies at the Delegates' Meetings and extracting all those great ideas and finding out what was wanted from the County. She felt that the England Golf aspect would be a steep learning curve but was looking forward to the challenge. Helen had given her a comprehensive handover and plenty of reading material. She stated that Helen had done an outstanding job, was hardworking and enthusiastic, professional and humorous – so no pressure. Helen had been passionate about the role and she hoped that she could live up to just some of the expectations and continue her great work. She asked those present to put their hands together to show their appreciation.

9. To Confirm the Executive Committee Members

The Executive Committee Members of County President Heather Keeble, County Secretary Margo Horsburgh, County Treasurer Helen Ayres, Immediate Past Captain Sammy Martin, County Second Team Captain Vanessa Mann, Committee Members Lesley Bingle, Liz Dann and Sue Hill were re-elected en bloc and confirmed by a unanimous show of hands.

10. To Confirm the Handicap Adviser, Scratch Score Assessor and Senior Team Organiser

The Handicap Adviser Sue Allen, Scratch Score Assessor Nickie Clarke and Senior Team Organiser Nicky Wylie were re-elected en bloc and confirmed by a unanimous show of hands.

11. Gillieson Cup Draw for 2019 (Teams Only)

The Home and Away draw had already been undertaken by the Competitions' Sub Committee. The clubs were drawn at the meeting.

12. Chairman of Competitions Report and Presentation of Trophies – Sue Hill

President Heather, County Captain Sam, Ladies of the Executive Committee and fellow members of the Association.

When I read through my report for last year's AGM, I thought I could just repeat it this year! My thanks to all those members of the Association who have made 2018 such a successful season by supporting our competitions. Thanks to all our Organisers without whose enthusiasm and efficiency no competition would run. Thanks to all the hosting clubs and their members who help run our competitions and give so generously of their time, and finally thanks to referees, supporters, family members and anyone else I've missed!!

We seem to have had fewer problems this year and hopefully those we have had, the oversubscribed Seniors' Championships for example, have been addressed. We do try to make your experience of our County Competitions as enjoyable as possible, hugely helped this year by the weather.

Look out next season for the increased handicap allowance for Division Four.

After a request from members we have agreed to look at neutral grounds for all rounds of the Gillieson. A possible system has been discussed at the both the Executive and the Competitions' Committee and it was agreed that it will be launched at the first delegates meeting in 2019 so all clubs can have the opportunity of careful consideration of the proposal, with a possible implementation in 2020.

Inter club and Scratch Leagues have also had a good season and the new Winter League is currently in full flow.

All matches began on time and finished before the deadline, although there was one deciding match in the very last week. Some Leagues were so close (Div.1 and Div.5) with only one game separating the top two positions, with Bawburgh and Great Yarmouth missing out.

Some statistics, a total of 436 ladies played for league teams. During the season 138 ladies changed their handicaps with 53 going up and a pleasing 85 going down. Division 6 being the most impressive with 23 ladies improving their handicaps. Surely a recommendation for League play! (Oh well maybe the weather too!!)

My thanks to the team organisers who were prompt in sending in the results and I was able to keep the web site as up to date as possible. I am also grateful to those sharp eyes who spotted my mistakes and enabled me to keep the leagues accurate. My thanks to the many who have helped and perhaps we can show our appreciation of all those thanked here by a round of applause.

Winners 2018

Before we begin a reminder to all trophy winners to stay at the end for photographs. Last Year I did my best to shorten the proceedings but you clearly wanted to applaud each presentation... so we will revert to clapping everyone!!

Inter Club League Winners

Division 1 – Barnham Broom

Division 2 – Hunstanton

Division 3 – Eaton 1

Division 4 – Dunston Hall -special cheers!!

Division 5 – Kings Lynn 2

Division 6 – Wensum Valley

Scratch League Winners

Division 1 – Royal Norwich

Division 2 – Royal Cromer

Division 3 – Royal West Norfolk... also promoted last year!

Division 4 – Swaffham

Congratulations to all the teams for their efforts this year.

Marion Scott Slaver

Presented to the winner of the Division 3 or Division 4 with the highest number of Stableford points. This year presented to Nell Bailey of Hunstanton with a score of 42 points

Congratulations to Nell

Seniors Championship Slaver.

This year held at Royal West Norfolk with a very big field and a very late finish ... our Senior Champion, a repeat of last year, with Jo Ashmore winning again

Congratulations to Jo

Carrick Cup

Played at Swaffham and contested by Royal Cromer and Thetford, with Thetford winning for the very first time.

Congratulations to Jess Dixon and Kath Malvern

Diamond Knockout

A great second year for this competition, just showing there is life left in us oldies yet!! The final played at Bawburgh and the deserved winners over runners up Eaton was Hunstanton.

Congratulations to Hunstanton

Gillieson

What an exciting final this was, played at Eaton. It was really well supported and both teams were in with a chance of winning. The final result was only decided on the 19th hole. Well done Barnham Broom for such a good match, but a special and emotional win for Dunston Hall.

Congratulations to Dunston Hall

The Sumpter Cup – Ladies County Champion

The Sumpter Cup is presented to the Ladies County Champion on the final day of competition and it is appropriate to make this the final presentation today. Winning the Sumpter Cup for the second year is our worthy County Champion Amelia Williamson of Royal Cromer.

Congratulations to Amelia

This concludes the presentations to the winners for 2018 and it just remains for me to say thank you for taking part and ok forward to seeing you in County competitions in 2019.

Heather thanked Sue for her report and ensuring that everything ran smoothly with any issues being resolved quickly and professionally. She asked Sue to announce the trophy winners for 2018, for the ladies involved to sign the trophy book and stay behind for a photo call.

13. Any Other business

Helen McAllister informed the meeting that a decision had been made by England Golf that from 2021 the County Finals will reduce to a three-day event.

The Ladies' President Heather Keeble closed the meeting at 11.40 am and thanked the members for attending.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 25th November 2019 at 10.00 am at Wensum Valley Golf Club.